

U.S. Embassy Riga LEED® Certified



The U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Certified building in Latvia. The building is certified under the LEED for New Construction rating system.

Site 9.8 acres | Project Cost \$115 Million | Occupancy May 2011

Sustainable Sites

The new embassy is located Southwest of the Central Business District. The landscape design established protected areas where existing vegetation, including many old growth trees, were preserved during construction. When selecting new plantings, special attention was given to selecting native or adapted plant material that is naturally drought and freeze tolerant. All fertilizers used on site are organic from biological processes, reducing the application of harmful chemicals.

Water Efficiency

Indigenous plant material was selected to minimize maintenance and reduce water consumption for irrigation. Much of the undisturbed portion of the compound has no permanent irrigation system. The building is calculated to use 33% less water than the performance requirements of EPAAct 1992. This is accomplished through the use of waterless urinals, and low-flow plumbing fixtures.

Energy and Atmosphere

The new embassy is projected to reduce energy costs by 18% compared to the calculated baseline (ASHRAE 90.1-2004). The Embassy employs energy-efficient technologies including solar hot water; LED task lighting; and variable frequency drives for pumps, fans, and motors. The building managers will optimize performance by utilizing an Automation System that allows the building to dynamically respond to local

climate, and monitors the systems. Occupancy sensors turn off lights when the systems. Occupancy sensors turn off lights when rooms are unoccupied.

Materials and Resources

This facility was built using sustainable materials. Over 20% of base building materials contain recycled content, including rebar, carpet, and insulation.

Indoor Environmental Quality

Employees and visitors benefit from a superior indoor environment. By monitoring CO₂ levels, optimal amounts of fresh air are provided to the occupants. Outside air is filtered with HEPA and carbon filters. Low-volatile organic compound (VOC) materials reduce potential off-gassing after installation. Adhesives, sealants, paints, coatings, and furniture systems all contain low quantities of VOCs.

Architect Sorg Architects

Contractor AICI – Special Projects

Landscape LJA Engineering, Inc.

Civil LJA Engineering, Inc.

Structural Weidlinger Associates, Inc.

MEP WSP

Commissioning HP Critical Facilities Services
